

We Claim:

- 1) A process for the delivery of a compound to a cell, comprising:
 - a) associating a chelator with a polymer;
 - b) delivering the polymer to the cell.
- 2) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer comprises a first polymer and a second polymer.
- 3) The process of claim 2 wherein the first polymer and the second polymer comprise nucleic acids, proteins, genes, antisense polymers, DNA/RNA hybrids, synthetic polymers.
- 4) The process of claim 3 wherein the chelator comprises a crown ether system.
- 5) The process of claim 4 wherein the crown ether system comprises covalently binding the crown ether to the second polymer.
- 6) The process of claim 2 wherein the first polymer comprises a nucleic acid.
- 7) The process of claim 6 wherein the second polymer comprises a net positive charge.
- 8) The process of claim 7 wherein the second polymer comprises polyamine.
- 9) The process of claim 1 further comprising associating a chelator with a polymer and a signal.
- 10) A process for compacting a nucleic acid for delivery to a cell, comprising:
 - a) associating a polychelator with a nucleic acid;
 - b) delivering the nucleic acid to the cell.
- 11) The complex of claim 10 wherein associating a polychelator further comprises associating a polychelator and a salt and a nucleic acid.

12) A complex for delivering a compound to a cell, comprising:

- a) a nucleic acid;
- b) a polychelator; and,
- c) an ion.

13) The complex of claim 12 wherein the complex is less than 500 nanometers in diameter.